

FOOD SITUATION IN CITY AND NATION

EMERSON FINDS NONE STARVING, DESPITE PRICES

Sees Danger to \$800 a Year Families if Food Costs Are Not Reduced

STORAGE SITUATION IS CALLED NORMAL

77,072,880 Pounds of Most Important Goods Held, Commissioner Reports

The health of New York families with an income of less than \$800 a year will be endangered seriously unless the present high cost of living is reduced or wages are raised, according to a report on the food situation made to Mayor Mitchell by Dr. Haven Emerson, Health Commissioner, made public yesterday. It reveals that the amount of perishable goods now held in cold storage in this city is not abnormal and that it indicates no hoarding by speculators.

"Though we found in general no unemployment, very little destitution and much less dependence than usual for this season," it says, "there is no doubt that the families of the poor are finding it much harder to make both ends meet on account of the very great increases in food costs.

"It is, however, apparent," the report continues, "that unless the present high prices of food are reduced and controlled, or as an alternative the income of families which now maintain themselves on \$800 a year is increased by raise of wages or through relief agencies, there will be a constantly increasing number of people whose health will be jeopardized by their inability to buy sufficiently nourishing food at the present prices."

Summary Is Given

This summary is given of the amounts of important perishable foods now held in storage in New York:

Meat and products	1,575,229 pounds
Butter	1,495,871 "
Eggs	1,445,031 "
Flour	1,445,031 "
Other	1,445,031 "
Total	77,072,880

One favorable phase of the economic situation pointed out in the report is that there is now "less dependency and real need than has been common for many years."

The report, which is based on special investigations conducted by the Health Department at the Mayor's order, points out that high prices are no result of certain long cumulative causes, principal of which is an "enormous increase in the exportation of staple articles, without a corresponding increase in the production of food in this country."

The report holds little hope of any immediate decrease in the price of such commodities as potatoes, onions and meat, but asserts that at present prices such foodstuffs are extravagances, inasmuch as "they may easily be replaced in food value by cornmeal, rice and beans of smaller amounts and less cost."

Would Extend School Lunches

Among the measures, aside from discriminating buying on the part of the housewife, suggested to reduce the high cost of living are the extension of the system of school lunches and the enactment of measures now before the Legislature, which would permit the sale of skimmed milk and "bobby" in New York City.

The retailers of New York City as a whole are exonerated from blame for high prices by the report, which includes a table showing the retail prices of various commodities obtained through 600 inspections in eleven different districts of the city, including all the boroughs, as compared with the wholesale prices.

"Reference to this table shows," the survey states, "that in many instances the retailers are selling at cost certain staple articles about which there has been public clamor or complaint of exorbitant prices."

It is apparent to the Department of

THE GOLDEN GLADES

See "The Devil On Ice"

SOCIETY'S NEWEST FAD

That ZIP-ZIPPY DINNER SHOW TO-NIGHT at 7 o'clock

Same artists as The MIDNIGHT PARADE

DANCE AT THE Balconades, 3d Floor.

Strickland's Orchestra and the Most Glorious Floor in New York

Thomas Healy's Broadway 66-68 St. N.Y.

Potato Prices Lower; Poultry Boycott Begins

First Result of New York's War on High Cost of Food—Kosher Chicken Retailers of East Side Close Shops in Protest

First results of New York's war on high food prices have come in a decided slump in the prices of potatoes. Joseph Hartigan, Commissioner of Weights and Measures, whose prediction on Saturday that reductions were at hand has been thus verified, asserts that other foods are bound to follow potatoes in the decline. He believes the crest of the high price wave has been reached, for the time being at least.

Potatoes showed weakness for the first time in the late quotations Saturday in Wallabout Market, Brooklyn. Chickens are expected to drop in price to-day as a result of a general strike of kosher butchers against the sale of chickens. The strike went into effect this morning.

At 5:30 o'clock Saturday afternoon potatoes in Wallabout Market were selling at \$11.50 a barrel of 180 pounds for the better grade and down to \$10 a barrel for poorer qualities. By the time the market closed the price had fallen to \$9.75 a barrel for the best quality and \$9 a barrel for the poorer ones. It is expected that a further decrease in potato prices will be recorded to-day.

Potatoes still have a long way to go on the downward path, however, before they reach the prices that prevailed even on February 1, which were considered exceptionally high at that time. Potatoes then were selling at from \$6 to \$7.50 a barrel, as compared with from \$3.30 to \$4 a barrel a year previous.

Large Potato Crops Predicted

"Government crop reports, which I have just received," said Commissioner Hartigan yesterday, "show that exceptionally large crops may be expected this year throughout the United States, provided there are favorable weather conditions and sufficient farm labor is available. The government reports state that the total acreage planted this year is the greatest in the history of the country."

Any considerable improvement in the potato situation will be immediately reflected in lower prices for foodstuffs in New York City, the Commissioner said. Already the moment of empty crates and solid trails is apparently having a beneficial effect, judging by an increase in the amount of foodstuffs coming in, the Commissioner pointed out.

In Albany and other upstate cities, Commissioner Hartigan said, the supplies of potatoes, onions and other foodstuffs are more than ample for local needs, and the surplus is being rushed to New York as fast as the railroads can handle it. This food will begin to arrive in considerable quantities during the present week, and lower prices should quickly result. A big change for the better in the food situation will take place within ten or fifteen days, at most, the Commissioner believes.

Commissioner Hartigan pointed out yesterday that in announcing his plan to raise a \$100,000 fund by subscription to buy foodstuffs to be sold at cost in health, according to the report, "that the present economic situation should be suddenly altered by any financial relief given here, that is, that the 'it is our belief,' it continues, 'that the extension of the school lunches and the teaching of intelligent buying will go far to remedy such hardship as now exists in families who are living on a food standard which will maintain health.'"

Extent of Exports Shown

The extent to which the exports of food from this country have increased in the last three years is strikingly shown in a table. The greatest increase has been in the exportation of milk products. The report states that exports in condensed form were exported in the last year to supply the entire city of New York for two years. Practically the only hope for substantial early relief from high prices is the report here, which is in the statement that at this time of year there is always a shortage of eggs and stored dairy products, "which are now down to their reasonable minimum."

"Within the last four weeks," the survey states, "there has been a great increase in the supply of eggs to be expected, and within two months the seasonal increase in milk products may be expected to give substantial relief."

Included in the detailed results of an investigation of the economic condition of 2,600 families which have been under the care of the Department of Health. In all there is some cause of economic dependency, usually sickness in some cases extending over a considerable period.

Meat Reduction Noted

There has been a general reduction in the amount of meat used in all of these families, according to the report, and some reduction in the amount of vegetable and farinaceous food.

In 373 of the families the wages received were less than a year ago; in 2,528 families they were the same or higher. In 813 cases families seemed in need of financial assistance, and of these 373 were receiving it.

"A close analysis of the food bought and used in these families," the report says, "makes it clear that the selection of food is made rather from habit and racial custom than by discrimination or intelligent choice, and the purchasers do not take advantage even of such economies as are possible."

Commissioner Emerson yesterday afternoon said the decrease in the exportation of onions would normally be expected to cause lower prices, but that its effect had been offset by a decrease in importations of Bermuda and Spanish onions in the last two years. He called increases in the sales of rice a good sign.

MAYOR'S BOARD TO TEACH CITY HOW TO EAT RICE

Circulars Will Enter 1,000,000 Homes Through Schools To-day

"Eat rice, instead of potatoes, onions or cabbage."

One million circulars containing this advice will be sent to homes through public school children to-day by Mayor Mitchell's Food Supply Committee. George W. Perkins, chairman of its executive committee, at a conference with Governor Whitman, at the St. Regis yesterday, made public a copy of the circulars and announced that New York City might expect only slight reductions in food prices "unless it

Luchow's

14th Street, near Fourth Avenue.

SHANLEY'S Broadway 43 & 44 N.Y.

U.S. FOOD INQUIRY PLANS ARE MADE

Federal Trade Commission Expects \$400,000 Fund To Be Provided

FREIGHT CONGESTION BEING RELIEVED

Department of Justice to Act if Prices in Capital Are Raised

Washington, Feb. 25.—Anticipating the passage by Congress of legislation to finance President Wilson's proposed nationwide investigation into the high cost of foodstuffs, the Federal Trade Commission is completing arrangements to launch the inquiry as soon as funds are authorized. The Administration is confident that the amendment to provide \$400,000 for the work, attached to the sundry civil bill, will be adopted.

At the car service commission of the American Railway Association it was said to-day that continued progress was being made in relieving both freight congestion and car shortage, and that the Interstate Commerce Commission reports were received from investigators telling of the further movement west of freight cars from Buffalo and other congested points.

An official of the Interstate Commerce Commission said there was every reason to believe that the relief work was being continued effectively. The points of most serious congestion, it was explained, were beginning to show undertakings for relief. Western cities, notably Chicago, it was thought, soon would find measurable relief from the congestion and shortage which have tied up many thousands of cars and trucks. The Department of Justice continued its investigation. A report that dealers in the District of Columbia are preparing to raise prices to still higher levels, beginning to-morrow, is to receive immediate attention, and prosecutions will be speedily followed if this is done and it can be held to a concerted movement.

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NEWARK MASS MEETING ASKS WILSON FOR FOOD EMBARGO

Congress and Mayor also Urged to Aid Fight Against High Prices

A mass meeting to protest against the high cost of living was held in Semel's Hall, Newark, yesterday afternoon. About 1,000 men and women crowded the hall and 500 more held an overflow meeting outside.

Henry Green, a local Socialist leader, presided.

Rabbi Herman Brodsky, John B. Brasser and Judge Patrick J. Dolan. Resolutions were passed to be forwarded to President Wilson and Congress calling for an embargo on foodstuffs going abroad and urging the passage of an act prohibiting the increasing of prices by speculators.

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THE 13th Chair

JOHN THE WOMAN

UPSTAIRS & DOWN

STANDARD

CHICAGO INSTITUTIONS TAKE POTATO OFF MENUS

Rice Will Be Substituted in Score or More of Public Homes

Chicago, Feb. 25.—Potatoes were barred to-day from the menus in the County Hospital by order of the warden, acting on recommendation of the Health Commissioner. They were dropped from the bills of fare at the Municipal Sanatorium the preceding day. Rice will be substituted for potatoes at each institution.

A score or more of old people's homes and other public and quasi-public institutions also have prohibited or limited to special cases the use of potatoes.

Baltimore Sending Trucks to Farms to Lower Food Prices

City Vehicles Will Bring Produce Bought for Cash Direct to Consumers

Baltimore, Feb. 25.—Twenty-four five-ton trucks of the city departments will be sent out in the country surrounding Baltimore to-morrow to gather farm products, in an attempt by the city to reduce the prices of foodstuffs.

Four counties will be visited, and if the plan is successful trucks will be sent to the Eastern Shore. This was decided on to-day at a meeting of the Board of Estimate at Mayor Preston's house. Special cash is to be paid to the farmers out of the city's contingent fund. Potatoes, eggs, cabbage, spinach and onions are to be the chief products sought.

Each city employee has been detailed to each truck, two to bargain with the farmers and two to run the truck. The trucks will return with their supplies to the city markets, Mayor Preston said. The city expected to save 10 per cent from the costs to the consumers.

It is planned to limit the quantities sold to a buyer to the average amount sold weekly to one household, and to prevent "bringing in" the Mayor said he expected each day to have the twenty-four loads sold out by night, so that the trucks may be dispatched the next morning for new orders.

The trucks will be equipped with telegraph wires busy getting in touch with leading farmers in Harford, Baltimore, Anne Arundel and Howard counties. There is over \$50,000 available for starting the campaign.

SHUBERT LOVE O' MIKE

LITTLE MORRIS DANCE

MAXINE ELLIOTT'S

MOROSCO THEATRE

CANARY COTTAGE

LONGACRE

W. COLLIER

NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH

44th Theatre

FARRAR

CASINO

48th St.

The 13th Chair

CURT

UPSTAIRS & DOWN

STANDARD

SELZNICK PICTURES

CLARA KIMBALL YOUNG

'The Price She Paid'

MARCUS LOEW THEATRES

FOOD DELEGATION TO SEE WHITMAN

Will Urge That State Sell Necessaries to Poor at Cost

132 ORGANIZATIONS FORM COMMITTEE

Fight Against High Prices Organized at Meeting Called by Women

The People's Conference Committee, representing 132 labor, Hebrew trades, Socialist and women's organizations, which was formed yesterday to combat high food prices, will send a delegation to see Governor Whitman to-day. The Governor will be asked to send an emergency message to the Legislature urging an appropriation of from \$1,000,000 to \$10,000,000 for the purchase of food for sale at cost to the poor.

The members of the committee are Edward F. Cassidy, of Typographical Union No. 6; Victor Buhr, Central Federated Union; William Karlin, Socialist party; and Carl Beck or Alexander Kahn, United Hebrew Trades.

The Central Federated Union passed resolutions concerning in the demand for an immediate appropriation for food, and a call was issued for labor mass meetings throughout the state to spread this idea. The Socialist party of New York County also sent recommendations to the Governor.

The conference committee was formed at Public School 62, at Essex and Hester Streets. Three hundred and ninety-two delegates and as many outsiders as could crowd into the auditorium were present.

Tried to Bar Women

The meeting was called by the Mothers' Anti-High Price League, and a spirited contest was precipitated at the outset as to who should control the meeting—the women who called it or the men who attended as delegates.

One labor representative was for ex-

OH, BOY!

ASTOR BOY!

CLIFTON

BOOTH

39TH ST.

EMMA DUNN

THE MAN WHO CAME BACK

PLAYHOUSE

LYRIC THEATRE

25c and 50c

THE HONOR SYSTEM

METROPOLITAN OPERA

JOHN HARRIS

CAPTAIN KIDD

THE WILLOW TREE

CENTURY

THE WILLOW TREE

PHILHARMONIC

JOSEF STRANSKY

ALFRED NOYES

Lunn Says Either Mayor or Governor Should Seize Food

Another Socialist Speaker Holds It a Duty to Say 'To H—' with Law

George R. Lunn, formerly Socialist Mayor of Schenectady, told an audience of 1,500 last night in Cooper Union that he would guarantee that such a food situation as existed in New York could not last long in Schenectady. As a city official, he declared, he would take over all speculators' stocks in warehouses. Either the Mayor or the Governor could do just that in New York, he asserted.

His announcement was greeted with cheers. Mr. Lunn is a Representative-elect to Congress.

"The only thing lacking is common sense used at the right time," he said, "if the masses have not and can not buy the necessities of life it is the duty of those governing the state and the city to seize the overstocked warehouses and sell the food at a price that would bring it within the means of the people."

Harvey P. Vaughan, a Socialist, who spoke at the People's Forum in the Labor Temple, at Fourteenth Street and Second Avenue, went a step further.

"If the law does not permit the Mayor to buy food to feed the people, then the Mayor does not say to the Governor that something must be done at once," he declared, "then it is our duty to say 'To hell with the law!' and go out and get food. Let us go out and get it at any cost."

The suggestion that the people would obtain relief through anything George W. Perkins might do was ridiculous, he said.

Jonathan C. Day, the chairman, invited everybody in the audience to bring to the attention of the forum any case of privation that had come to his attention. Just one had an instance to cite. It concerned a family of eight whose income was \$5 a week.

POTATO BOYCOTT SPREADS

A boycott on potatoes and onions was declared by the Williamsburg branch of the Mothers' Anti-High Price League in New Plaza Hall, Brooklyn, last night. Mrs. Benjamin Weisbaum presided.

Mrs. Jacob Panken urged the Williamsburg women not to indulge in rioting. More was to be gained by peaceful means, she told them.

The Haversey Street Pedlars' Association sent a statement to the meeting professing sympathy with the movement. They promised not to sell potatoes or onions until wholesalers reduced the prices.

Beth Israel Hospital Buys Lot

Louis J. Frank, superintendent of Beth Israel Hospital, announced yesterday that the institution had bought the property at 17 Livingston Place, adjoining the plot on which it has a hospital is to cost \$100,000, and will have a frontage of 150 feet on Livingston Place and a depth of 120 feet. Construction will start soon.

NEW YORK'S LEADING THEATRES AND SUCCESSORS

EMPIRE

MAUDE ADAMS

KNICKERBOCKER

GEORGE ARLISS

Laurette Taylor

THE HARP OF LIFE

LIBERTY

HARRIS

THE YELLOW JACKET

CAPTAIN KIDD

THE WILLOW TREE

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THE CRISIS

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ALFRED NOYES

THE CRISIS

HIPPODROME

THE BIG SHOW

GLUCK AND ZIMBALIST